

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 USIE-00 SYE-00 /017 W

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O R 031945Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3650

INFO AMEMBSSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 2204

DEPARTMENT FOR A/SY; ARA/CAR; ARA/EX FROM RSO AND CHARGE

DEPARTMENT PASS USIA/IOS/ILA AND AID WASHDC

PANAMA FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: CIVILIAN GUARD FORCE - GEORGETOWN

REF: GEORGETOWN 2171

1. RSO HAS CONDUCTED A REVIEW OF THE EXISTING EMBASSY GUARD PROGRAM. IT HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED THAT THREE ACTIONS BE CONSIDERED FOR EXPEDITIOUS IMPLEMENTATION BY THE POST WITH DEPARTMENT FUNDING AUTHORIZATION:

- A. THAT THE PRESENT "SINGH" CONTRACT BE TERMINATED;
- B. THAT THE USG ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH THE "GEB SECURITY SERVICES LTD" FOR GUARD SERVICES OF OFFICIAL AMERICAN RESIDENCES AND USG INSTALLATIONS IN GEORGETOWN;
- C. THAT THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED GUARD SERVICE BE CONTRACTED TO PROVIDE INDEFINITE TWENTY-FOUR HOUR COVERAGE OF ALL RESIDENCES AND USG INSTALLATIONS. STATE, AID AND USIS HAVE GIVEN THEIR UNANIMOUS CONCURRENCE.

2. ESTIMATES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM TWO OTHER
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GEORGETOWN GUARD SERVICES. FOLLOWING EXAMINATION

OF THE VARIOUS GUARD COMPANIES BY THE RSO, IT HAS BEEN EVALUATED THAT "GEB LTD" IS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING THE BEST SERVICE. "GEB LTD" IS THIRD LARGEST IN GUYANA.

3. DURING THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 29 TO NOVEMBER 1, RSO REVIEWED THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EXISTING GUARD PROGRAM. REVIEW CONSISTED OF PERSONAL INSPECTIONS OF GUARDS AT ALL RESIDENCES AND USG FACILITIES DURING EARLY MORNING AS WELL AS DAYTIME HOURS; DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRESENT CONTRACTOR AND WITH EMBASSY PERSONNEL BEING FURNISHED WITH THIS SERVICE.

4. THE PRESENT SERVICE IS VERY POORLY MANAGED, SUBSTANDARD FOR GUYANA, AT RANDOM PICKS PEOPLE OFF THE STREET FOR RESIDENTIAL GUARDS WITHOUT ANY PRIOR INSTRUCTION AND IS IN FACT A HAZARD TO OUR PERSONNEL BY ITS MERE EXISTENCE. THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICS ARE NOTEWORTHY:

A. DIRECTOR SINGH HAS LIED TO POST MANAGEMENT. AFTER HAVING ASSURED THE ADMIN OFFICER AND GSO THAT HE HAD RECRUITED MEN FOR ADDITIONAL 24-HOUR COVERAGE, IT HAS BEEN DISCOVERED HE MOVES MEN FROM ONE HOUSE (8-HOUR SHIFT) TO ANOTHER HOUSE FOR AN ADDITIONAL 8-HOUR SHIFT, OR EVEN THEN TO HOMES NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE EMBASSY WHERE THEY WILL NOT BE SEEN;

B. THE MANAGER LIED TO THE RSO STATING HE DOES NOT OWE ANY BACK PAYMENTS TO THE GUARDS. SOME GUARDS IN FACT HAVE NOT BEEN PAID THEIR TOTAL SALARY FOR THE PAST THREE WEEKS;

C. THE GUARDS ARE UNTRAINED, UNINSTRUCTED AND OVERAGED "WARM BODIES" AT EACH RESIDENCE TO MERELY STAISFY A CONTRACT;

D. RSO HAS POINTED OUT TO "SINGH" THE SHORTCOMINGS AND PROBLEMS OF HIS ORGANIZATION. ALTHOUGH GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GUARDS, HE HAS DONE NOTHING SINCE RSO ARRIVAL. IN ANTICIPATION THAT HE AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEAST WOULD ADVISE THE GUARDS TO BE ALERT AND CAUTIOUS IF INSPECTED, THE OPPOSITE WAS DISCOVERED. AS POINTED OUT IN REFTEL, INSPECTIONS WERE CONDUCTED AT ALL HOURS. IN ADDITION TO FURNISHING FULL BIO ON EACH RESIDENT, WHILE CLAIMING TO BE CANADIAN OR BRITISH, RSO WENT SO FAR WITH ONE GUARD AS TO SPEAK SPANISH, THEN BROKEN ENGLISH AND CLAIM CUBAN NATIONALITY. RESULTS WERE: NAME

OF FAMILY, U.S. EMBASSY PERSONNEL, YOUNG SON AND DAUGHTER, NO DOG; YES THEY WERE HOME AND SLEEP AT REAR OF THE HOUSE. MANY GUARDS HAD TO BE AWOKEN FOR SIMILAR EXCHANGES, IF THEY COULD BE FOUND.

5. THE GUYANA POLICE ARE SLOW IN RESPONDING TO RESIDENCES AND GIVEN THE PRESENT AND UNKNOWN FUTURE POLITICAL CLIMATE, THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IS DOUBTFUL.

6. OUR PERSONNEL ARE NOT ONLY EXISTING UNDER THE MOST RECENT "ALLEGED" THREAT OF KIDNAPPING BUT THE RESIDENTIAL AND STREET CRIME RATE IS VERY HIGH. TAKING ALL INTO CONSIDERATION, IT IS THEREFORE DEEMED NECESSARY THAT THE EMBASSY ENTER INTO A NEW GUARD AGREEMENT PER PARA 1.B ABOVE.

7. THE GUYANA POLICE ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE 24-HOUR POLICE COVERAGE TO ALL RESIDENCES AND USG INSTALLATIONS.

8. THE "GEB LTD" PROVIDES CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION FOR ALL GUARDS. THEY MAINTAIN AN ARMED RESPONSE FORCE AND BARRACKS FACILITY IN TWO LOCATIONS FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF GUARDS. IN ADDITION TO REGULAR GUARD TRAINING, PERSONNEL ARE INSTRUCTED IN FIRE FIGHTING AND BASIC FIRST AID. FIRE FIGHTING IS A "PLUS" CONSIDERING THAT NINETY PERCENT OF OUR PERSONNEL RESIDE IN OLD, DRY AND WOOD FRAME HOMES.

9. COST FACTOR - G2.00 OR U.S. \$.79 PER HOUR.
COVERAGE:
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A. STATE - 22 RESIDENCES/USG INSTALLATIONS,
24 HOURS EACH, US\$423,743.48 PER YEAR;
B. AID - 9 RESIDENCES/USG INSTALLATIONS,
24 HOURS EACH, US\$62,112.96 PER YEAR;
C. USIS - 4 RESIDENCES/USG INSTALLATIONS,
24 HOURS EACH, US\$24,155.04 PER YEAR.

10. STATE FUND AUTHORIZATION IS REQUESTED. ASSUME AID AND USIS WILL BE COVERED UNDER SAME AUTHORIZATION.
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